

generating progress for struggling people and our planet. I am extraordinarily grateful for his contributions to our nation and world.

RECOGNIZING MS. AISHA KARIMAH

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues in the House to join me in recognizing Ms. Aisha Karimah, who today is observing 45 years in the District of Columbia at NBC4 Washington, where she has provided exemplary service to Washington, D.C. and the national capital region.

For more than four decades, Aisha has brilliantly used her talents to help NBC4 grow and has championed our city and region and its many community campaigns—Beautiful Babies Right from the Start, Drug Free Zones, It Takes a Whole Village, Make the Right Call, Camp 4 Kids, Get Healthy 4 Life, Backpacks 4 Kids, Food 4 Families, and The NBC4 Health & Fitness Expo—we can hardly name even a representative group of community causes that Aisha has not touched. Ms. Karimah is a particularly positive and dedicated role model for African Americans and for women entering journalism and serves as a mentor and confidant to hundreds of young people. She has been a wonderful friend and guidepost to me since I was elected to Congress in 1990.

As a veteran television producer, Aisha currently produces two weekly news programs: Reporters Notebook and Viewpoint. She has shared her talents by also producing programs for Howard University Television, including The Urban Health Report, Washington's Leaders and The Randall Robinson Program.

Aisha is a graduate of Howard University and Wesley Theological Seminary. She is a proud and devoted mother of two sons: Donnell, a graduate of American and George Washington Universities, and Jay, a Howard University graduate who is married to Whitney, also a Howard graduate, and a cancer survivor.

Aisha says her life's work has been a labor of love and a blessing, "because only God could have taken a girl from the Lincoln Heights projects, having grown up on welfare and working at the age of 10 years old to a position where she has been able through her work to help make a positive difference in the same community in which she grew up." Notwithstanding serious illness, Aisha Karimah kept going at NBC4. Today, we bring Aisha Karimah from behind the scenes to let her take a bow for 45 years of beneficial contributions to the District of Columbia and the national capital region.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Aisha Karimah for an extraordinary job well beyond the call of duty for NBC4 Washington and the national capital region for 45 extraordinary years.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4486) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise today to express my support for H.R. 4486, the FY15 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. I commend Chairmen ROGERS and CULBERSON and Ranking Members LOWEY and BISHOP for crafting a bipartisan bill that not only provides for current and former service members and their families but also substantially addresses the veterans' claims backlog.

The MilCon-VA bill makes critical investments in our military infrastructure, housing, and services to our nation's veterans, active military members and their families. It provides \$71.5 billion in discretionary funding for these programs and activities, including \$64.7 billion for the Department of Veteran Affairs. It also provides \$58.7 billion in advance funding for the VA in FY16.

This legislation also builds on efforts made in last year's MilCon-VA bill to end the claims backlog that continues to plague our VA regional offices, including the VA's Baltimore Regional Office. It fully funds the budget request of \$173.3 million for the Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS) and provides an additional \$20 million to the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) for digitizing records and staffing needs. The legislation also requires each VA regional office to submit a monthly report on its claims processing performance and imposes even stricter requirements on the poorest performing offices around the country. I am hopeful that these measures will be an important step in ensuring that backlogged claims are expedited as quickly as possible.

I do have reservations about a number of provisions contained in the bill, however. I strongly oppose section 411, which prohibits the construction, renovation, or expansion of any facility in the U.S. to house individuals that are currently being detained at Guantánamo Bay. And as the White House outlined in its Statement of Administration Policy, it is disappointing that this bill does not provide full funding for VA Medical Care, potentially delaying the delivery of important health care services to our veterans.

Despite my concerns, the MilCon-VA bill reflects our commitment and the promises we have made to our veterans, our service members, and their families. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this important piece of legislation.

TRIBUTE TO THE PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA LASALLE ACADEMY CLASS OF 2015

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the future leaders of LaSalle Academy, Class of 2015, on their Leadership visit to the Nation's Capital on May 6th 2014. This trip, through the sites they will see, the leaders they will meet, and about whom they will learn, will expose them to the attributes effective leaders must possess in guiding individuals toward a value-based, common goal. I trust this trip will afford these young men and women not only an opportunity to learn effective leadership skills, but also the worth of selfless leadership to themselves, their school, community, and nation.

LaSalle Academy of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania has inculcated a robust value set in its curriculum and has readied these young men and women for this leadership role. Knowing they are our leaders of tomorrow, I and the teachers and staff at LaSalle Academy are happy to have provided them the opportunity to see leadership in action in our nation's capital.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate these students on their interest in our government and in becoming inspirational leaders. Please join me in wishing them every success in their future endeavors.

HONORING NEKIAYA JACKSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Nekiaya Jackson, who is an extraordinary student, athlete, and member of society.

Nekiaya Jackson was born in Greenwood, MS on August 19, 1996. She is the proud daughter of Amy Perkins and Michael Jackson. Starting from a young age, she was always excited about learning. She read, wrote, and often inquired about subjects that were far beyond her level. She was named "gifted" and was placed in an accelerated learning program in the second grade. Her thirst for knowledge and adventurous spirit led to excellence in all subjects throughout elementary school, middle school, and high school.

Nekiaya is currently a senior honor student at Greenwood High School where she is involved in numerous clubs and organizations. Some of these include: Beta Club, National Honor Society, and the math society—Mu Alpha Theta.

Nekiaya is the President of the Skills USA organization and a member of its Opening and Closing Team, which has placed 1st place two years and will go on to the National Skills USA Competition in Kansas City and represent Skills USA as a 1st place winner for the state of Mississippi. As a member of the Youth Advisory Council, she volunteers monthly at Golden Age Nursing Home to engage its residents in various activities. She is also a four

year Letterman of Greenwood High school's track, basketball, and softball teams.

Nekiaya is employed by Greenwood Public Schools as a Student Office Clerk at Greenwood High School. She serves in the Principal's office under Mr. Percy Powell.

Nekiaya is an active member in her community through various volunteer organizations. She is a member of Greenwood Leflore Public Library's Teen Advisory Group, where they organize many holiday events for children. She has participated in the Walk for Alzheimer's and 300 Oaks Race and served at the Greenwood Community Kitchen and the Food Pantry.

After graduating from Greenwood High School, Nekiaya plans to attend Mississippi State University and major in Aerospace Engineering. Her "Super Plan" as she calls it, is to work for NASA.

Her favorite quote comes from one of her heroes: "What we find is that if you have a goal that is very, very far out, and you approach it in little steps, you get there faster. Your mind opens up to the possibilities."—Mae C. Jemison. She says that this is one of the things that keeps her motivated and on the track traveling toward her dreams and aspirations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a student extraordinaire, Ms. Nekiaya Jackson for her dedication to excellence in and out of the classroom.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DAVID SCHOOLEN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. David Schoolen for his honorable service to the United States of America.

In 1940, David was born in Des Moines, Iowa. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1963 and graduated from Navy boot camp at the U.S. Navy Training Center in Great Lakes, Illinois.

Because of his high score on the aptitude test, David was selected to undergo highly specialized training at the Submarine School in New London, Connecticut. He successfully completed the basic course and continued on to receive specialized training in electronics followed by additional training at the Naval Nuclear Power School.

After his training, David reported aboard the USS *Tecumseh*, a ballistic missile submarine. The submarine had two crews, a Blue Crew and a Gold Crew, that alternated onboard the ship's deterrent patrols during the Cold War. David was part of the Gold Crew, which was made up of 133 enlisted men and 14 officers. The *Tecumseh* completed 21 patrols in the Pacific including patrols in the Gulf of Tonkin, the North China Sea, and the South China Sea during the Vietnam War.

David re-enlisted in the Navy and completed further training in gas, welding, burning, and brazing. He also completed training in electronic test equipment operation, hydrogen detection, damage control, and noise and vibration measurement. David became an Electrician's Mate 1 and served in the capacity of a Nuclear Power Propulsion Plant Operator.

After four tours with the Gold Crew onboard the USS *Tecumseh*, David served as an instructor at the Nuclear Power Prototype (Operational) School for three years.

In January 1971, David was honorably discharged after more than seven years of service. Mr. David was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Dolphins Badge of the Submarine Service.

David is a Life Member of Chowchilla Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9896. He is also active in the community of Chowchilla as a deacon in El Nido Missionary Church. He and his wife, Dorothy, have three children and one grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the honorable service of Mr. David Schoolen. We must thank him for his unwavering commitment to protecting the citizens of the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF LOUISE ARCHER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 75th anniversary of the Louise Archer Elementary School in Vienna, Virginia. The history of this school from its first days as a one-room schoolhouse for African American children to the present time with a diverse student body and advanced academic programs in many ways mirrors the history of the entire Northern Virginia region.

The school is named after Louise A. Reeves Archer who was born on October 23, 1883. She grew up in North Carolina, attended Livingstone College, taught school in Southampton County, and moved to Washington, D.C. in 1922. Her life's work was the education of African American children.

In 1922, Mrs. Archer became teacher and principal for a one-room, segregated school in Vienna known as the Vienna Colored School. Devoted to her students, she often transported children to school herself. She organized a Parent-Teacher Association to raise funds for supplies and a new building, which opened on its current site in 1939 with three rooms. In 1941 students, parents, and faculty raised \$300 to pay for a music teacher, bus expenses, kitchen supplies, and electric lights.

In addition to the academic curriculum, Mrs. Archer taught sewing, cooking, music, gardening and poetry to her students in fifth through seventh grade, which was then the highest level of public education available to African Americans in the county at that time. She was a highly respected educator who taught the value of discipline, respect, and other important life skills that would serve her students throughout their lives.

Mrs. Archer was also active in the community at large. She served on the board of the Washington Conservancy of Music, participated in the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary, and established one of Fairfax County's earliest 4-H Clubs for African Americans, among other activities.

After Mrs. Archer's death on April 1, 1948, the community felt the importance of having a

memorial in her honor. In response to a petition, the school board changed the school's name to Louise Archer Elementary in 1950.

Today, inspired by the school's namesake, the faculty and staff of Louise Archer Elementary School create an educationally stimulating, and supportive learning environment so students can grow academically, socially, and emotionally in preparation for becoming motivated, confident, and respectful members of the community. As part of the 75th anniversary events, the school will become home to a temporary historical museum containing artifacts from the school's founding as well as contemporary displays made by current students.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the commemoration of this significant anniversary and the contributions of Mrs. Louise Archer to the educational development of African American children in Fairfax County.

RECOGNIZING THE FINALISTS SELECTED IN THE 24TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS ART COMPETITION

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to recognize the following high school students from the 24th Congressional District of Texas who were selected as finalists in the Congressional Art Competition. Of the 179 pieces entered in 24th District, only 32 students were selected as finalists.

Student, Title of the Artwork:

Emily Buckland, The Birds Are Singing.
Purujit Chatterjee, Portrait of Mother Teresa.
Eunice Choe, Blue Bird.
Lovell Cox, Jungle.
Erin Crumpler, Poison Dart Frogs.
Nicole Crumpler, The Power of Perception.
Amie Deng, Magnolia Warbler in Orchids.
Laura Gao, Little Italy.
Greg Garza, Viper.
Sophia Glasser-Kerr, Winter Landscape.
Kelsie Harshaw, On the Edge.
Rebecca Hopkins, Intaglio Monoprint Beach Scene.
Madeline Huang, Purple Twilight.
Diane Huynh, Afterlife.
Heather Jang, Abstract Study.
Esther Jeon, Self Portrait with a Fan.
Rebecca Kim, Happy Beginnings.
Yvonne Kim, Intrusion.
Min Sun Lee, First Step Towards Independence.
Soojin Lim, Garlic.
Ahona Mukherjee, Main Cabin Under an Aurora Streak.
Olivia Najera, Tiger at Water.
Lauren Oney, Red.
Jeongho Park, The Hug.
JC Patino, Arabian Allure.
Fabiana Perez, Self Portrait.
Yu Jin Rim, The Lamp.
Nicole Schifferdecker, Beginning To End.
Caitlyn Shannon, Gradient.
Duc Tran Nguyen, Ice.
Kailey Visoski, 'Merica.
Katy Yut, Prayer.

The art competition was represented by many different high schools in the 24th District. I am honored at this time to acknowledge